



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Nov. 19, 2014

www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola

Status of Saskatoon Health Region's EVD Plan:

The EVD planning team continues to prepare for the rare possibility of treating an EVD patient:

- St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) is now the preferred site to treat **all** EVD patients (adult, maternal and pediatric).
- The physical space at (SPH) is ready to treat a potential EVD patient. Planning is underway for further minor modifications to treat multiple EVD patients.
- PPE training sessions continue. Information about new PPE protocols is available at www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola.
- The Region-wide EVD operational and communications protocol manual is nearing completion.
- Progress continues on the development of an EVD toolkit for departments/ programs where patients/clients present directly and do not report to registration or emergency (eg. Eye Center, Ambulatory Care Clinic, Mental Health Programs). This tool kit will align with Population and Public Health toolkit under development for community physician offices. Each toolkit will contain EVD and PPE reference information.

Next Steps:

- We are planning a rural and a community-based EVD simulation session. Keep posted for more information on dates and locations.
- A dedicated Saskatoon Health Region EVD Response Team is being assembled with individual from ICU, PICU, ED and the Lab. Response team members will receive specialized training. For instance, individuals from the Lab who have volunteered to be part of the team will be trained in the use of point-of-care lab equipment. More details on the response team and how to become involved will be available soon.
- EVD planning and education activities with Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Fire Department, funeral directors, community physicians and others in the community is ramping up.

Key Messages for Sharing:

Standing messages:

- EVD does not spread easily from person to person. It is spread from touching bodily fluids of a person who is sick with, or has died from the disease, or from exposure to contaminated objects, such as needles.
- There NEVER been a case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Canada. The introduction of EVD into Canada is possible but not likely and the risk to Canadians remains very low. Nevertheless, we want to be prepared.
- At Saskatoon Health Region EVD planning and preparedness is led by Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Johnmark Opondo and Director of Enterprise Risk Management Lori Frank. Planning efforts are focused on the most likely scenarios: (1) an ill traveler with signs and symptoms of EVD is first identified at Saskatoon Airport or enroute and (2) an individual returns from an affected country and presents at a health-care setting in Saskatoon Health Region with signs and symptoms of EVD.
- If a patient presents with fever, [follow the established protocol](#):
 - Ask if they have travelled out of country within the past 21 days, especially Africa.
 - Remain calm and properly isolate the patient.
 - [Properly don your personal protective equipment](#).
 - Call the Infectious Disease specialist at 306-655-1000 and the Medical Health Officer at 306-655-4620.
- EVD information, tools and resources can be found at www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola.

Questions? Contact the EVD planning Co-Leads:

- Contact Dr. Johnmark Opondo, Deputy Medical Health Officer and 306-655-4338 or Lori Frank, Director of Enterprise Risk Management, 306-655-7795